



## News Release

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### **Workers at Muncie's Hiatt Metal Products eligible for federal aid**

INDIANAPOLIS (October 16, 2006) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Muncie's Hiatt Metal Products are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. The investigation began August 17, 2006, in response to a petition filed on behalf of workers.

The Department of Labor investigation revealed that employment and sales at the subject firm declined in January through July 2006 when compared to the corresponding 2005 period. The Department of Labor surveyed the subject firm's major declining customers regarding their purchases of machined metal products. These surveys revealed increased imports of machined metal products during the period under investigation. Consequently, workers at the Muncie plant qualified for TAA benefits and the findings were certified on September 26, 2006. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after August 17, 2005 through September 26, 2008 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the Muncie Hiatt Metal Products facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Eligible parties may contact the Muncie WorkOne at (765) 289-1861, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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